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18 August 1958

Copy No. C-

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



DOCUMENT NO. 14
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ~~X~~
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS, S, C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2006
AUTH: DIR 7C
DATE: 3/27/80

State Dept. review completed

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Approved For Release 2002/08/16 : CIA-RDP79T00975A003900140001-3

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[redacted] Cyprus: Governor Foot says that while the Greek Cypriots may delay their response, he expects them to react violently to implementation of Britain's modified proposals announced on 15 August. The governor fears that if EOKA begins a campaign of violence, British servicemen--already exasperated by Greek murders--may then take vindictive action. [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

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OK Britain-Iceland-Norway: Britain and Iceland have not reconciled their differences over Iceland's announced intention to enforce a 12-mile fishing limit beginning 1 September, and the possibility of incidents between fishery protection ships remains. Responsible British officials continue to emphasize that Britain intends to use force if necessary to protect its fishing rights after 1 September. Norway has sent an aide-memoire to Britain stating that, unless an international agreement is reached within the coming year, Norway will extend its fishing limits to 12 miles. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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III. THE WEST

Icelandic Fishing Limit Dispute

A Norwegian aide-memoire to the British Foreign Office of 13 August states that, regardless of any agreement which might be reached with Iceland in the current Paris discussions of fishing experts, Norway intends to extend its fishing limits to 12 miles during 1959 if an international agreement stipulating otherwise is not reached within the coming year. Oslo itself is of the opinion that a 12-mile fisheries limit is the only realistic global solution. Norway's proposed extension would particularly affect German and British trawlers, which fish extensively in the waters off Norway.

The American Embassy in London warns that a dangerous situation is fast approaching as a result of the impasse created by the Norwegian note, plus information received by the Foreign Office indicating that the fish-conservation proposals worked out in Paris this week are not acceptable to Iceland. According to the embassy, responsible British officials give every indication of planning to use force if necessary to protect their rights after the 1 September deadline set by Reykjavik. The Foreign Office advised the embassy that the Admiralty intended to announce reinforcement of the fishery protection squadron with the hope of attracting minimum publicity.

In the Norwegian view it is not possible in the long run to prevent Iceland from extending its fishing limits and any inducement to Reykjavik to withdraw its announced extension would only postpone the issue. Norway proposes a joint effort at the current Paris discussions to seek a temporary arrangement for Iceland enabling it to postpone enforcing new fishing regulations until after a new conference on law of the sea.

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